

REMARKS

In light of the following remarks, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 7, 9 and 14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15 have been cancelled without any disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 9 and 14 define allowable subject matter. Consequently, Applicants have rewritten claims 7, 9 and 14 in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 7, 9 and 14 be allowed.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled claim 13 without any disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to claim 13 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (JP 56-46338A). Applicants have cancelled claims 1-6 and 12 without any disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Hoffman et al. (US 5,317,183). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Konishi et al. (US 4,757,367). Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto (JP 56-46338A) in view of Konishi et al. and further in view of Hoffman et al. Applicants have cancelled claims 8, 10-11 and 15 without any disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 8, 10-11 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 7, 9 and 14 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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